

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3090

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA

SUBJECT: TRUDEAU APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE: VIEWS ON

QUEBEC WHITE PAPER

REF: QUEBEC 143

1. LARGE PART OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE WAS DEVOTED TO RECENT QUEBEC GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER ON LANGUAGE (REFTEL). WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE, TRUDEAU NOTED THAT "AS LONG AS LAW IS NOT PROMULGATED, LAW WHICH WILL FOLLOW WHITE PAPER, I THINK THAT IT IS ENTIRELY IMPOSSIBLE TO SPECULATE EITHER ABOUT DISALLOWANCE OR ABOUT RECOURSE TO A JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL TO TEST ITS ULTRA VIRES CHARACTER, ETC... I FIND THAT BATTLE IS POLITICAL, MORE THAN JURIDICAL OR CONSTITUTIONAL."

2. SPEAKING GENERALLY OF APPARENT PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) AIMS, TRUDEAU SAID: "NO ONE SHOULD BE SURPRISED PQ GOVERNMENT, IN SPITE OF ITS ELECTION ATTITUDE IS SAYING, 'WE WANT AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC'. HOWEVER, I WOULD THINK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT EVEN CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN INDEPENDENCE WILL BE SHOCKED THAT IN AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC THERE WILL BE NO ROOM FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING MINORITY, OR, MORE PRECISELY, THAT HISTORIC RIGHTS OF ENGLISH SPEAKING MINORITY THAT HAS BEEN THERE FOR 200 YEARS, WILL BE WITHDRAWN OR RESTRICTED... THIS IS NOT ONLY VERY SERIOUS, BUT VERY REVEALING. IT SHOWS PQ IN ITS TRUE COLORS,

WHICH ARE THOSE OF AN ETHNIC-CENTRED SOCIETY."

3. COMMENT: TRUDEAU REMARKS REPRESENTED PATENT EFFORT TO
PICTURE PQ GOVERNMENT AS TRYING PUSH,THROUGH LANGUAGE
PROGRAM, QUEBEC BACKWARDS TO ISOLATED, MONOLITHIC AND
UNJUST SOCIETY OF "THE DARK AGES". AT SAME TIME, HE
GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO TO
CHALLENGE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE WHITE PAPER.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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